

Generation of Scrap in Visakhapatnam Steel Project is negligible.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Complaints are received occasionally on unsatisfactory quality of steel supplied. Details of the complaints are not readily available, as no separate Statistics are maintained in this regard. All such complaints are brought to the notice of SAIL for taking necessary remedial measures.

(d) Among the steps being taken to improve the quality of steel material are better raw material preparation, modernisation of steel plants, which envisaged use of secondary refining techniques so as to ensure better quality of steel, improved maintenance of plant and equipment, adoption of better technological and manpower discipline etc. SAIL has also formed a quality division at the Corporate level as well as at the plants. Under the drive, Total Quality Management of Steel is receiving adequate attention. Testing facilities are also receiving attention.

Sharing of River Waters between India and Bangladesh

2290. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken to resolve the issue of sharing of river waters between India and Bangladesh;

(b) the reasons for delay in arriving at a solution;

(c) whether any progress was made in the last round of Indo-Bangladesh talks held for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the tentative date by which the next round of talks is likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). An Indo-Bangladesh Secretaries Committee was set up in April, 1990 to work out a broad framework for long-term comprehensive sharing of river waters. The Committee has met five times so far. It has been agreed to give priority for sharing of the flows of Ganga and Tista. In the last meeting, the Indian side outlined the proposal for comprehensive sharing of river waters based on a long-term perspective to facilitate their development on a sound basis. The response of Bangladesh side has not been received. It was agreed to establish a Joint observation station on the Indian side near the international border, if feasible, to monitor the flows of the Tista river.

(e) The next round of talks will be held on dates convenient to the two countries.

[Translation]

Barren Lands in U.P.

2291. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area of barren land in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken to make these lands cultivable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN): (a) and (b). In Uttar Pradesh, 10.60 lakh ha. is barren land. Barren lands include exposed steep mountain slopes, snow over and extremely inhospitable arid tracts which cannot be

brought under cultivation at economic cost. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the catchment of Flood Prone River provide for the treatment of barren lands in the selected watersheds

[English]

Supply of Milk Powder and Butter Oil by EEC

2292. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC) for the supply of milk powder and butter oil for the Operation Flood-III Project;

(b) if so, whether at present the EEC is reluctant to honour its commitments;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken to ensure that EEC honours its commitments;

(d) whether at present there is a shortfall in production of milk and milk powder products in the country;

(e) whether the Government are also considering the proposal to permit export of milk powder by private sector;

(f) if so, the quantity proposed to be exported, country-wise; and

(g) whether the proposal of export is opposed by the National Dairy Development Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However there has been some delay in making gift commodities available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The production of milk products had to be curtailed as priority has been given by the public/cooperative sector dairy plants to meet the requirement of liquid milk of cities and towns. However, with the onset of the flush season the production and availability of milk products is expected to improve.

(e) to (g). The export of milk powder has been canalised through NDDB. There is no proposal under consideration at present to permit the export of milk powder by private sector.

South-South Co-Operation

2293. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken any decision to promote South-South Co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV SINGH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). India has always emphasised the importance of South-South Co-operation. During the Non-aligned Summit in Belgrade in 1989, India joined in the initiative to create a summit level group on South-South consultation and co-operation (G-15). The Group provides a forum for regular and in-depth consultations at the highest level on international issues and to promote South-South Co-operation. Several specific projects for South-South Co-operation have been identified by the Group. a summit level meeting of Group of 15 recently took place in Caracas,